

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claims 17-21, 24-27, and 32-44 are allowed, and claims 48 and 51 are merely objected to and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 17, 37, and 45 have been amended, and claims 22-23 and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, the amendments of claims 17, 37, and 45 merely address matters of form and incorporate a feature of a dependent claim into an independent claim (claim 45).

With regards to the formal-type objection to claims 22-23, those claims have been cancelled without prejudice, and it is thus believed the objection has been obviated.

Claims 45-47, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Chen et al. (EP 0939339) in view of Jeoung (U.S. Patent 6,358,672) with Yamada (U.S. Patent 6,241,857).

Claims 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over over Chen et al. (EP 0939339) in view of Jeoung (U.S. Patent 6,358,672) and further in view of Garofalo (U.S. Patent 5,338,626).

For the sake of brevity, the two Section 103 rejections are addressed in combination.

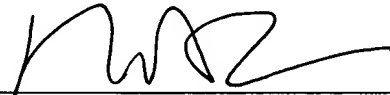
While Applicants disagree with the rejections, it is also believed the amendments made herein obviate the rejections. In particular, claim 45 (the only rejected independent claim) has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 48, which was indicated to be allowable.

In view thereof, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Corless', written over a horizontal line.

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